

REMARKS

Bearing in mind the comments in the Final Official Action, the application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance. An early indication of the same would be appreciated.

Claims 1-6 are now pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. Claim 7 has been canceled, and no claims have been added or amended by this amendment.

Withdrawal of the objection to the Drawings is requested. Concurrently with the filing of this Amendment after Final Rejection, Replacement Drawing Fig. 1 is being submitted in response to the Examiner's basis for objection, namely, to add reference numbers "1M", "13", and "14" to Fig. 1. No new matter is involved with this Replacement Drawing Figure.

If approved, Applicants respectfully request that this replacement sheet containing Fig. 1 be accepted as a "Formal" drawing by the Examiner.

Withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure for various minor typographical errors is requested. Responsive to the Examiner's stated bases for objection, the Specification has been amended. No new matter is involved by these amendments to the Specification.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Applicants' admitted art is requested.

Although Applicants disagree with the Examiner's rejection, in the interests of expediting prosecution and passage of the application to issue, claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein. Therefore, the anticipation rejection of claim 7 is now moot.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 20679-188-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final, in that it raises no new issues, but merely places the claims in a form more clearly patentable over the references of record. In the alternative, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it reduces the issues for appeal.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

Respectfully submitted,

By Larry J. Hume
Larry J. Hume

Registration No.: 44,163
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ, LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036-3425
(202) 331-7111
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)
Attorneys for Applicant

Enclosures: Specification after Amendment

Specification after Amendment

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the last paragraph at line 24, page 1 of the Specification with the following replacement paragraph:

--Commonly, ~~The~~the elements have a frame provided with co-ordinated through holes forming inlet and outlet manifolds for the two electrolytes that are circulated in a parallel mode through the positive electrolyte flow chambers and the negative electrolyte flow chambers, respectively.--

Please replace the last paragraph at line 24, page 1 of the Specification with the following replacement paragraph:

--On the other hand, the redox system require non-negligible electrolyte flow rates through the flow chambers of the reactor in order to maintain optimal half-cell reactions conditions at the electrodes and this requirement may imply the necessity of operating the bipolar electrochemical reactor at relatively high positive pressure.--

Please replace the last full paragraph at line 18, page 13 of the Specification with the following replacement paragraph:

--Differently from the frame piece 1M of the membrane element, the frame piece 1E of the bipolar electrode element has, on the upper face keying pins 20 (Fig. 1) having a circular cross section of a diameter appropriate to fit ~~int-~~into the circular sockets 11 present on the underside of the frame piece 1M of a membrane element. As visible in the upturned view of Fig. 3, on the upper side of the molded frame piece 1E of the bipolar electrode element (Fig. 1), there are sockets 21 with an oblong cross section suitable to accommodate the keying pins 10 present on the upper side of the molded frame piece 1M of the membrane element.--